perfect Oratour, ſayth that ofttimes an auncient worde maketh the ſtyle ſeeme graue, and as it were reuerend: no otherwiſe then vve honour and reuerence gray heares for a certein religious regard, which we haue of old age. yet nether euery where muſt old words be ſtuffed in, nor the commen Dialecte and maner of ſpeaking ſo corrupted therby, that as in old buildings it ſeme diſorderly & ruinous. But all as in moſt exquiſite pictures they vſe to blaze and portraict not onely the daintie lineaments of beautye, but alſo rounde about it to ſhadow the rude thickets and craggy clifts, that by the baſeneſſe of ſuch parts, more excellency may accrew to the principall; for oftimes we fynde ourſelues, I knowe not hovv, ſingularly delighted with the ſhewe of ſuch naturall rudeneſſe, and take great pleaſure in that diſorderly order. Euen ſo doe thoſe rough and harſh termes enlumine and make more clearly to appeare the brightneſſe of braue & glorious vvords. So ofentimes a diſchorde in Muſick maketh a comely concordaunce: ſo great delight tooke the worthy Poete Alceus to behold a blemiſh in the ioynt of a wel ſhaped body. But if any vvill raſhly blame ſuch his purpoſe in choyſe of old and vnvvonted vvords, him may I more iuſtly blame and condemne, or of vvitleſſe headineſſe in iudging, or of heedeleſſe hardineſſe in condemning. for not marking the compaſſe of hys bent, he vvil iudge of the length of his caſt. for in my opinion it is one ſpecial prayſe, of many vvhych are dew to this Poete, that he hath laboured to reſtore, as to theyr rightfull heritage ſuch good and naturall Engliſh words, as haue ben long time out of vſe & almoſt cleare diſherited. VVhich is the onely cauſe, that our Mother tonge, which truely of it ſelf is both ful enough for proſe & ſtately enough for verſe, hath long time ben couted moſt bare & barrein of both. which defaute when as ſome endeuoured to ſalue & recure, they patched vp the holes with peces & rags of other languages, borrowing here of the french, there of the Italian, euery where of the Latine, not vveighing hovv il, thoſe tongues accorde vvith themſelues, but much vvorſe vvith ours: So now they haue made our Engliſh tongue, a gallimaufray or hodgepodge of al other ſpeches. Other ſome no ſo wel ſeme in the Engliſh tonge as perhaps in other languages, if thē happen to here an olde vvord albeit very naturall and ſignificant, crye out ſtreight way, that we ſpeak no Engliſh, but gibbriſh, or rather ſuch, as in old time Euāders mother ſpake. vvhoſe firſt ſhame is, that they are not aſhamed, in their own mother tonge ſtraungers to be counted and alienes. The ſecond ſhame no leſſe then the firſt, that what ſo they vnderſtand not, they ſtreight vvay deeme to be ſenceleſſe, and not at al to be vnderſtōde. Much like to the Mole in Æſopes fable, that being blynd her ſelfe, vvould inno wiſe be perſvvaded, that any beaſt could ſee. The laſt more ſhameful then both, that of their ovvne country and natural ſpeach, vvhich together vvith their Nources milk they ſucked, they haue ſo baſe regard and baſtard iudgement, that they vvill not onely themſelues not labor to garniſh & beautifie it, but alſo repine, that of other it ſhold be embelliſhed. Like to the dogge in the maunger, that him ſelfe can eate no hay, and yet barketh at the hungry bullock, that ſo faine vvould feede: vvhoſe curriſh kind though cannot be kept from barking, yet I conne them thanke that they refrain from byting.

Novv for the knitting of ſentences, vvhych they call the ioynts and members therof, and for al the compaſſe of the ſpeach, it is round vvithout roughneſſe, and learned vvithout hardnes, ſuch indeede as may be perceiued of the leaſte, vnderſtoode of the moſte, but iudged onely of the learned. For vvhat in moſt Engliſh vvryters vſeth to be looſe, and as it vvere vngyrt, in this Authour is vvell grounded, finely framed, and ſtrongly truſſed vp together. In regard wherof, I ſcorne and ſpue out the rakehellye route of our ragged rymers (for ſo thēſelues vſe to hunt the letter) vvhich vvithout learning boſte, vvithout

iudgement

iudgement iangle, vvithout reaſon rage and fom
had nevvly rauiſhed them aboue the meaneneſſ
middeſt of all theyr brauery, ſodenly eyther for v
gotten theyr former conceipt, they ſeeme to be
brance, as it vvere a woman in childebirth or as t
Os rabidum fe
vpon her.
Netheleſſe let them a Gods name feede on the
ken the beames of others glory. As for Colin,
ſhadovved, hovv furre he is from ſuch vaunted t
ſheweth, vvhere he ſayth.
Of Muſes Hobbin. I conne
Enough is me to paint out
And alſo appeareth by the baſeneſſe of the nam
vnfold great matter of argumēt couertly, then pr
ly. vvhich moued him rather in Æglogues, the
his habilitie, which he little needed, or myndin
wherein it faulteth, or follovving the example o
deuiſed this kind of wryting, being both ſo baſe
ner, at the firſt to trye theyr habilities? and as yo
the neſt, by little firſt to proue theyr tender vvyn
ſlevv Theocritus, as you may perceiue he vvas al
yet vvell ſeeling his vvinges So ſlevv Mantuane,
Boccace; So Marot, Sanazarus, and alſo diuers
Poetes, vvhoſe foting this Author euery vvhere
ſented can trace him out. So finally flyeth this ou
be ſcarcegrovven out, but yet as that in time ſha
Novv as touching the generall dryft and pur
much, him ſelfe labouring to conceale it. Onely
had long vvandred in the common Labyrinth o
allay the heate of his paſſion, or els to vvarne (as h
qualls and companions of his vnfortunate folly, t
for that they be proportioned to the ſtate of the
HEARDS CALENDAR, applying ar
haue I added a certain Gloſſe or ſcholion for the
ſes: vvhich maner of gloſing and commenting, v
in our tongue: yet for ſomuch as I knew many ex
and matter vvould paſſe in the ſpeedy courſe of
marked, and that in this kind, as in other vve migh
ons, I thought good to take the paines vpon me,
miliar acquaintaunce I vvas made priue to his c
alſo in ſundry other vvorks of his. vvhich albeit I
promulgate, yet thus much haue I aduentured
long time furre eſtraunged, hoping that this v
diuers other excellent vvorks of his, vvhich ſlepe
his Court of Cupide, and ſondry others; vvhoſe

¶